

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY : Poland/USSR

DATE DISTR. 6 DEC 51

SUBJECT Alleged Widening of Rift between Enver Hoxha
and Mehmet Shehu

NO. OF PAGES 1

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1. The split between Enver Hoxha and Minister of Interior Mehmet Shehu, which until recently had remained latent, has now become more pronounced. Rumors are widespread in Tirana that the presence of these two leaders in Moscow in May 1951 is explained by the fact that they went to the Soviet Union to seek a resolution of their personal differences. If this was, however, the real reason, the trip was unsuccessful, and their enmity has deepened.
2. The enmity stems partly from the imprisonment by Shehu of various supporters of Hoxha, whom Shehu accused of political infidelity. In addition, Hoxha is exasperated by Shehu's continual efforts to widen his personal power under pretext that he is exercising the authority vested in him as Minister of Interior to guard the country's internal security.
3. The rift between the two leaders has spread into the Albanian Workers' Party itself, which is gradually splitting into factions.

Document No. 67
No Change in Class. ☐
☐ Declassified
Class. Changed To: TS S C
Auth.: HR 702
Date: 05/09/78 By: 029

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